



Katrina College Relief Act



Hurricane Katrina's ravaging of the Gulf Coast has left hundreds of thousands homeless and destitute. Approximately 100,000 college students have been displaced for the foreseeable future, while dozens of colleges and universities in the Gulf Coast region have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Thousands of students will continue to struggle to cover college costs due to the disaster and countless student borrowers have been left without jobs or income, but they must still repay their college loans.

The Katrina College Relief Act Provides Urgent Relief to Students, Families and Student Borrowers

U.S. Representatives George Miller (D-CA) and Dale E. Kildee (D-MI) have introduced the *Katrina College Relief Act* (H.R. 3690) that would provide urgently needed assistance to students, families and student borrowers affected by Katrina. The bill would:

- Give the Secretary of Education authority to waive the amounts of student grants, such as Pell, TRIO, and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, that students are required to return when they withdraw from school due to a disaster;
- Direct the Secretary of Education to immediately readjust how much these families are expected to pay towards college for the current term and the next academic year (known as their "Expected Family Contribution"); and,
- Allow student borrowers who live in the affected areas with 6-month deferment from making payments on their college loans. During this deferment loan interest would not accrue. A typical borrower who has just graduated would save approximately \$600 on his or her loans.

Current efforts are a step in the right direction, but more needs to be done to help the students, families and student borrowers who have been hurt by Katrina.

We need to reassess what students and families can actually pay for college after the disaster—even though many have lost jobs, homes, resources and valuables. In addition, Congress must address the needs of student borrowers stuck paying loans despite job loss and other financial hardships; and, provide relief to dependent students whose parents live in the areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Resources

CampusRelief.org www.campusrelief.org

National Association of Financial Aid Administrators

<http://www.nasfaa.org/linklists/katrina.html>

Congressional Research Service www.crs.gov

Of the dozens of colleges and universities adversely impacted by Hurricane Katrina, nearly 90,000 their students receive federal college loans, while more than 75,000 receive Pell grant scholarships.

PARTIAL LIST OF CAMPUSES AFFECTED BY KATRINA
(compiled from the Chronicle of Higher Education and CampusRelief.org)

ALABAMA

- University of South Alabama
- University of Mobile
- Bishop State Community College
- Spring Hill College
- Southeast College of Technology

LOUISIANA

- Dillard University
- Loyola University New Orleans
- Southern University at New Orleans
- Tulane University
- University of New Orleans
- Xavier University of Louisiana
- Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
- Louisiana Technical College, Sidney N. Collier campus
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- Our Lady of Holy Cross College
- Delgado Community College
- Eastern College of Health Vocations
- Grantham University
- Herzing College - New Orleans
- Louisiana State University System - University of New Orleans
- McNeese State University
- Notre Dame Seminary
- Nunez Community College
- Summit University of Louisiana
- Grantham College of Engineering
- Louisiana Technical College, Slidell campus
- Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College
- Louisiana Technical College Baton Rouge Campus
- Our Lady of the Lake College
- Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge

MISSISSIPPI

- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (four campuses in Gulfport, Perkinston, and Gautier)
- Jackson State University
- Millsaps College
- Virginia College
- Wesley Biblical Seminary
- Alcorn State University
- University of Southern Mississippi
- Jones County Junior College
- Mary Holmes College
- Pearl River Community College
- Southwest Mississippi Community College
- Tougaloo College
- University of Southern Mississippi
- William Carey College
- Wood College